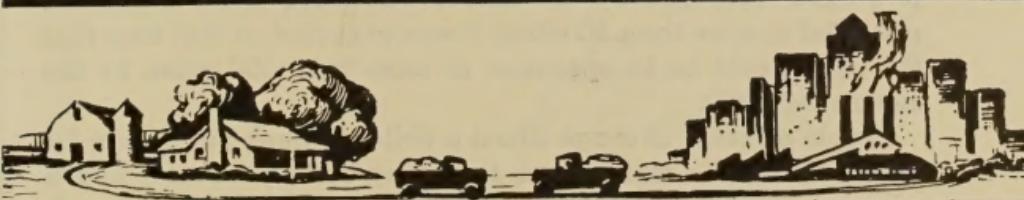


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# None Shall Go Hungry



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION



# Making abundance work for low-income families

**F**ORTY million Americans are living in families whose average cash income is only about \$9 a week. Out of that they must pay house rent, feed and clothe their families, and educate their children.

That's what the National Resources Committee found, according to its study of consumer incomes, published in 1938.

Of these 40,000,000 people, about 20,000,000 have been receiving some form of relief or public aid. The best figures available show that the families on relief rolls spend an average of about 15 cents a day per person for food. Other families in the low-income group spend but little more. It's practically impossible to maintain a decent standard of health on that.

Since 1935 the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation has been meeting the problem of these people on relief in part by direct purchase of farm products where these are glutting markets. The products are then shipped to the various States, to be distributed to the needy through established relief agencies.

More recently, the FSCC has developed the Food Order Stamp Plan. Starting in May 1939, it was tried out in a few cities. It worked well, and by the end of December 1939, had been extended to more than 30 cities; it was expected at that time that the plan would be in operation in more than 100 cities by the summer of 1940.

People on relief average about a dollar a week per person for food. Under the stamp plan they may, if they choose, buy a minimum of a dollar's worth of orange stamps a week for each member of the family, good at any store for any food. With the orange stamps they receive, additionally, half again as many blue stamps free. These latter may be used to purchase only such foods as are designated as surplus, including dairy and poultry products, fruits, and vegetables. Fortunately, it is just

these foods which are of great value in the diet of those who are undernourished.

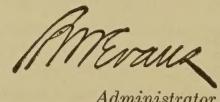
Under this system, then, such families as have been spending an average of \$1 a week per person for food now can spend \$1.50. That makes a great difference.

The advantages of the various surplus removal programs are several. Let's begin with the advantage to the farmers. Whenever they produce in excess of what the market can readily take, the surplus acts at once as a drag on prices, and the farmers' income suffers. And so anything that diminishes such surplus tends toward a better agricultural income. On the consumers' end, a fundamental advantage, of course, is that the abundance of food grown by the farmers of the country will get to those who have been without means to buy enough of it.

The new Food Order Stamp Plan retains all of these favorable features and adds others. Where it operates, for instance, the surplus farm products move through the usual wholesale and retail channels, and in that way they help to stimulate business.

The distribution of surplus farm products is not a final answer to the farm problem, of course. From the farmer's standpoint, unmarketable production must be considered a waste of labor and soil fertility; and the broad conservation and Ever-Normal Granary program of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration is aimed directly at this waste. But, so long as there is surplus production, and until buying power has been restored to the needy and the unemployed, the distribution of surplus farm products is the way the people of the United States, through act of Congress, have chosen to fulfill the obligation to seek the greatest good for all the people.

None shall go hungry.



Henry A. Wallace  
Administrator.

"There is a point of balance . . . where the welfare of both the farmer and the consumer is best served. And it is that point of balance that we are working toward. That is what the agricultural adjustment program is all about."



## **Producer-Consumer Leaflets**

This is the eighth in a series of 12 leaflets dealing with the various ways in which the problems of farmers and city people are related. The following is the complete list of leaflets in the series:

- PC-1 And So They Meet.**—Farmers and city people: Both producers—both consumers.
- PC-2 The Things We Want.**—Making abundance work for all our people.
- PC-3 On Tired Soil.**—Poor soil means poor people on the farms and in the cities.
- PC-4 Two Families—One Farm.**—Stable tenure means better producers and better consumers.
- PC-5 To Buy Abundantly.**—Producers of abundance deserve to be consumers of abundance.
- PC-6 Plenty.**—Avoiding the scarcity of famine and overabundance.
- PC-7 Between You And Me.**—The distributor's place in production and consumption.
- PC-8 None Shall Go Hungry.**—Making abundance work for low-income families.
- PC-9 Grow Your Own.**—Better home living means better production and consumption.
- PC-10 The Magic Carpet.**—Protection for grassland is protection for cities.
- PC-11 The Farm Home And AAA.**—Better farm income means better farm homes.
- PC-12 Country Life And AAA.**—A permanent security for farm and city.

Copies of this leaflet and others in this series may be obtained upon request from the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

## **Reference Suggestions**

The material in this leaflet is based on facts presented in various governmental studies and publications, including:

- "**Agricultural Adjustment, 1937-38.**"—G-86, pages 173-181. Agricultural Adjustment Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- "**Surplus Removal Operations.**"—Report of the Secretary of Agriculture, 1938, pages 45-47. U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- "**Eating the Surplus.**"—Address by Milo Perkins, President of FSCC, at a meeting of the National Association of Retail Grocers at Kansas City, June 21, 1939. U. S. Department of Agriculture.